



**SAGB Canterbury Conference University of Kent, Canterbury
21-27 August 2022**

“India: History, Current Developments and Culture”

We return to the attractive University of Kent for our conference this year. The theme is India, reviewing political, social, historical and cultural themes, both in India itself and also the diaspora.

India is an ancient and culturally rich civilization. Britain established a presence there in the early 1600s, enforcing direct rule in 1858. The period until Independence in 1947 was turbulent and today, after a period of relative stability, many observers are concerned with the rise, over the past decade, of Hindu nationalism with its powerful leader, Narendra Modi. Britain has a large Asian diaspora community, around 8% of the population, including London's Mayor, Sadiq Khan. For the arts in the UK, particularly dance, the influence of India has been considerable. We plan to have lectures and discussions on all these aspects.

The conference features four days of lectures, discussion and group work, with translation in English and German. Also included is a one day excursion to Rye: “...medieval streets clustered around a sandstone hillside, overlooking the River Rother – a historic and picturesque East Sussex town.” Canterbury itself is a beautiful city with a magnificent cathedral, a Roman museum and fascinating streets.

Free car parking is available at the University and we will again have the use of the luxurious senior common room for evening socials.

We advise those interested to apply for a place as soon as possible, **but to wait to book transport until the end of June.** Travel route suggestions will be sent at the end of June.

For queries about any aspect of the conference, please contact Stuart Sweeney at balletlover@hotmail.com or at +44 (0)795 413 5571.

Programme (subject to change)

Chairs: Charles Harvey and Stuart Sweeney

All afternoons, except Wednesday, are free. Possible optional trips: tour round Canterbury, river trip, Roman museum.

Sunday 21st August

from 14:00: participants arrive, travel details will be forwarded closer to the time

18:00 Dinner

19:30: Welcome and introductions, videos of Canterbury and the Cathedral, then a first night party.

Monday 22nd August:

09:30 Introduction to India: brief history and other aspects. What are our impressions of India, with contributions from Jan Capek and others, followed by group work with questions about how India is viewed in the participants' own countries and final plenary. Lead by Charles Harvey

19:15 India and Britain - Legacy of Empire. Maggie Foyer

Tuesday, 23rd August:

09:30 The rise of Narendra Modi and Hindu Nationalism (to be confirmed)

19:15 Human rights in India - talk by Stuart Sweeney.

Wednesday, 24th August:

09:15 Day out – Rye

19:15 Talk and film on Akram Khan, featuring his new version of the ballet “Giselle” – combining western dance with Indian dance. Stuart Sweeney and Maggie Foyer

Thursday, 25th August:

09:30 Shri Swaminarayan Temple in London - the largest Hindu temple outside India. A representative will tell us about the process of developing the temple, their work with the Hindu community and relations with the other local residents. (to be confirmed)

20:00: International evening

Friday

09:30: The Caste system in India and within the Indian community in the UK (to be confirmed)

19:15: Evaluation

Saturday

Leave after breakfast

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Application form

In the event of cancellation due to worsening of the Covid situation or another reason, all deposits will be returned. **We suggest you do not book flights etc until final confirmation of the conference in the second half of June. For queries about any aspect of the conference, please contact Stuart Sweeney at ballettlover@hotmail.com or at +44 (0)795 413 5571.**

Send or e-mail applications to: Elin Bornemann,
117 Walker Drive, Faringdon, SN7 7FY, England or elinbornemann@yahoo.co.uk

Name(s):

Address:

Phone / mobile:

email:

Accommodation required:

single en-suite room, £490

single room (two bathrooms for 4 rooms) £410

double en-suite room, £450 per person

reduction on the above for full-time students and under-35's: £140

The conference fee includes the transport and some admission costs for the day out in Rye.

Day visits are possible for £20 per day without meals.

[Book before 15th June 2022 to enjoy a £10 discount on either the full amount or the £100 deposit.](#)

If you require parking at the University, give your car registration number:

Do you require a disability room?:

You have a choice on payment: if you wish to save on bank transfer fees you can send the full amount now; or you can send £100 deposit per person and pay the remainder in cash at the conference or by a second bank transfer. Please send the application form together with a UK bank cheque or for those who prefer bank transfer and all overseas participants, **including your name to:**

Bank name: Co-operative Bank

Account name: Sonnenberg Association of Great Britain

Sort Code: 089029

Account number: 50586231

IBAN: GB92CPBK08902950586231 BIC: CPBK GB22